WORLD PARISH

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FEBRUARY, 1958

WORLD CONFESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AT GENEVA

Front row, left to right: The Lord Bishop of Willesden, Anglican; Dr. Elmer T. Clark, Methodist; Dr. Marcel Pradervand, Presbyterian and Reformed; Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, Lutheran; Dr. R. F. G. Calder, Congregationalist; Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn, Baptist; Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, World Council of Churches. Back row: Miss Lilo Schiller, Lutheran; Dr. Lewis S. Mudge, Presbyterian and Reformed; Dr. E. Benson Perkins, Methodist; Bishop Ferdinand Sigg, Methodist; Mr. Herbert M. Hadley, Friends; Dr. Hans Heinrich Harms, World Council of Churches; Dr. Vilmes Vajta, Lutheran.

WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

GENERAL OFFICERS

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Past President: Bishop Ivan Lee Holt, 20 North Kingshighway, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.

Vice Presidents:

Bishop Fred P. Corson, 1701 Arch Street, Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Dr. Oscar T. Olson, 1919 East 107th Street, Cleveland 6, Ohio, U.S.A.
Mr. Charles C. Parlin, 20 Exchange Place, New York 5, New York, U.S.A.
Bishop S. L. Greene, 1105 Fountain Drive, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.
Mrs. Ottilia de O. Chaves, Caixa Postal 1905, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Bishop Ferdinand Sigg, 60 Badenerstrasse, Zurich, Switzerland
Dr. J. B. Webb, Methodist Central Hall, 66 Kruis Street, Johannesburg, Transvaal, South Africa
Rev. James S. Mather, Methodist Headquarters, Colombo 3, Ceylon
Dr. A. Harold Wood, Methodist Ladies' College, Barkers Road, Kew, E. 4, Victoria, Australia

Secretaries:

Dr. Elmer T. Clark, Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, U.S.A.
Dr. E. Benson Perkins, 38 Belle Walk, Birmingham 13, England

Treasurers:

Mr. Edwin L. Jones, 1700 Brandon Road, Charlotte, North Carolina, U.S.A.
Mr. L. A. Ellwood, 1 Watergate, Tudor Street, London, E.C. 4, England

WORLD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

Dr. Eric Baker, 1 Central Buildings, S.W.I., London, England
Rev. Basil Clutterbuck, 25 Marylebone Road, London, N.W. 1, England
Rev. Rupert E. Davies, 12 Downs Park, 5., Westbury Park, Bristol 1, England
Bishop Bertram W. Doyle, 1702 Hieman Street, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.
Bishop F. Gerald Ensley, 615 Tenth Street, Des Moines 9, Iowa, U.S.A.
Dr. Dorothy Farrar, The College, Ilkley, Yorkshire, England
Bishop Odd Hagen, Sibyllegatan 18, Stockholm, Sweden
Professor Thomas E. Jessop, University, Hull, England
Dr. R. B. Lew, Park Road, Burwood, N.S.W., Australia
Dr. Ernest E. Long, Wesley Bldg., 299 Queen St., W., Toronto 2B, Canada
Bishop Paul E. Martin, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.A.
Miss Dorothy McConnell, 150 Fifth Ave., New York 11, New York
Dr. Matthew A. McDowell, 77 Pretoria Street, Lower Hutt, New Zealand
Bishop Arthur J. Moore, 63 Auburn Road, N.E., Atlanta 3, Georgia, U.S.A.
Rev. A. Victor Murray, Cheshunt College, Cambridge, England
Dr. T. Otto Nall, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, U.S.A.
Mr. Ray Nichols, Vernon, Texas, U.S.A.
Dr. Walter J. Noble, 59 Central Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent, England
Dr. J. Manning Potts, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A.
Dr. W. E. Sangster, 1 Central Buildings, Westminster, London, S.W. 1, England
Mrs. Ernst Scholz, Berlin-Lichterfelde, Paulinenstrasse 30, Germany
Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Lewisburg, Tennessee, U.S.A.
Rev. Wilfred Wade, 2 Colchester Villa, Truro, Cornwall, England
Bishop W. J. Walls, 4736 South Parkway, Chicago 11, Illinois, U.S.A.
Mr. J. Ernest Wilkins, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.
Bishop Friedrich Wunderlich, Frankfurt a-Main, Ginnheimer, Landstrasse 180, Germany

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MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL (SECTION XIII)

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

NOVEMBER 4, 1957

The Executive Committee of Section XIII of the World Methodist Council met at the Lovely Lane Methodist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, at 10 A.M. on Monday, November 4, 1957. Those preseent were Oscar T. Olson, Elmer T. Clark, Edwin L. Jones, T. Otto Nall, Dow Kirkpatrick, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, Miss Dorothy McConnell, and James W. Fowler.

Among the vistiors present were Jacob S. Payton, Lester A. Welliver, J. B. Cain, Lawrence Sherwood, Frederick E. Maser, Albea Godbold, O. B. Fanning, and Erle Prior.

Dr. Lester A. Welliver conducted devotionals. The vice president of the Committee, Dr. Oscar T. Olson, presided and made an opening statement.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary, Elmer T. Clark, presented a written report as follows:

I am submitting as a part of this report the printed Minutes of the World Executive Committee, held at London last summer. These are self-explanatory and will make unnecessary a further detailed report to this Committee. There are, however, certain matters that should be presented herein.

OXFORD THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

A theological institute is to be held at Lincoln College, Oxford, on July 19-29, 1958, under the auspices of our Oxford Memorial Committee. There will be a report on this from the American chairman.

We have been allotted 30 of the 75 students and are asked to provide $56.00 per student or $1680.00, which covers the tuition costs, but not travel expense. We were also asked to remit $280.00 to help pay the advance deposit required by the college. I understand that these amounts are to be credited to the tuition fund and refunded in whole or in part if American students paid their own tuition.

The World Executive Committee referred the whole matter of finances to this Executive Committee. There is nothing in our budget to cover an item of this kind, and if the total amount is to be paid it will require a drastic readjustment of the budget. We should cooperate in every way and funds are urgently needed by the British committee in immediate charge of the project. This should have careful and sympathetic consideration.

The World Executive Committee requested us to enlarge our Oxford Committee for the purposes of this Institute to correspond with the British group. I have conferred with our own chairman, and we submit the following nominations for confirmation: Dean W. R. Cannon, Dean Merrimon Cunninggim, Dean Walter G. Muelder, Bishop Paul E. Martin, Bishop Gerald Ensley, Miss Dorothy McConnell, Dr. Gerald O. McCulloh.

Epworth Old Rectory

On June 29, 1957, in a colorful and moving ceremony at Epworth and in the presence of a large concourse of people, the World Methodist Council assumed ownership of the old home of the Wesleys. The building has been completely reconditioned and modernized, a warden has taken up residence therein, and the property is now a shrine of World Methodism.

It will be recalled that the World Methodist Council in 1956 approved the raising of "approximately $35,000" for the reconstruction of the property, and while the resolution did not so provide, it has been expected that this fund would be raised in the United States; I am now informed that around $50,000 is needed to cover the whole cost. Thus far a little more than $16,000 has been raised. The British committee has borrowed the money at the rate of 7½%, and the interest is accumulating at the rate of around $30.00 per week.

The responsibility for raising this fund does not rest on this Committee but on the Managing Trustees of the property, on which we are represented by five members. But we are deeply concerned and are probably held responsible in the eyes of the other Sections. The situation has become embarrassing and it is hoped that the Committee will give careful consideration to devising some means of being helpful regardless of technical responsibilty.

Regional Conferences

Last summer there was held at Stockholm the fourth session of a regional meeting known as the European Consultative Conference. It was attended by Methodists from fourteen European countries and by several persons from America. This is a biennial meeting, and it has been of inestimable value in drawing together the Methodists from countries in which they are small minority groups in the presence of powerful state churches. It has been recommended that similar regional conferences be held in other areas in the interim between World Conferences.

We have never had a meeting of the members of Section XIII, and the

same is true of the other Sections in the western hemisphere. Such meetings would be productive of great good, especially in the cultivation of the churches and stimulating interest in ecumenical Methodism. Your Secretary, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

1. That there be a meeting of members of Section XIII and other interested persons, and the other Sections in the United States if they can be interested, at a suitable time in 1958.

2. That, if found practicable, a similar meeting of all Latin American Sections be arranged in 1959.

3. That the expenses of these meetings be paid from our cultivation and promotion fund and such other funds as may be made available.

4. That a special committee composed of the officers of Section XIII and others to be named by them, including representatives of other Sections, be named to set the times and places, prepare the programs, promote attendance, and direct all the arrangements for these meetings.

Proceedings of the Ninth World Methodist Conference

The volumne of *Proceedings* has been published and members of the Executive Committee have doubtless received copies. It is the largest such volume that has been published since 1911 and has been well received everywhere. The Methodist Publishing House printed more than 1200 copies and around 200 remain on hand. A subsidy of $2,759.55 was required and this has been paid. We presented a copy of this book to each member of the Commission on World Service and Finance at its last meeing as our report for the last fiscal year.

Charles Wesley Commemoration

The commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley is being promoted by the Board of Evangelism and the Hymn Society of America. Both agencies have produced and disseminated some excellent literature.

The large regional meetings which were envisioned have not been carried out, although meetings are being held in New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere under local leadership, and the occasion will be observed in numerous churches.

The Epworth Press of London has published an excellent little book entitled, *Fifty Hymns of Charles Wesley.* It contains British tunes with which American Methodists are not familiar, and this, together with its late appearance, prevented its sale in this country. The publication was tacitly, but not expressly, endorsed in a meeting of the World Methodist Council at Lake Junaluska last year, and we have arranged with the publishers to send a copy to each member of our Section of the World Methodist Council.

Work of Committess

Some of our Standing Committees have important projects under way or in contemplation. This is true of the Oxford Memorial Committee, as above mentioned, and also of the Committees on Evangelism and Exchange of Preachers. Reports will be presented and will not be anticipated in this report.

Arrangements are under way for holding a great Youth Conference at

Freudenstadt, Germany, in January, 1959. This is not directly under the sponsorship of our Committee on Youth and Young Adult work, but is sponsored by the European Consultative Conference. It is hoped, however, that many Methodist youth from the United States will attend.

The World Federation of Methodist Women, an affiliate of the World Methodist Council, is functioning with efficiency. The President attended the meetings at London and Stockholm last summer in her official capacity, a handbook has been published in London, and a system of communication has been worked out. A session of the Assembly of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, to be held in St. Louis in May, will be devoted to the work of the World Federation.

There has long been under discussion the need for a periodical of World Methodism. The World Executive Committee felt that the time was not propitious for launching such a publication, but certain proposals have been made and the matter has been investigated somewhat by an informal committee from this group, which will submit a tentative report.

Finances

A financial report will, of course, be submitted by the Treasurer. It is sufficient for this record to state that there was at the end of the last fiscal year a cash balance of $3,985.93. Because of the heavy expense of the Ninth World Methodist Conference there was an overexpenditure of the budget of $2,939.17, but this was more than covered by funds which had been previously set aside for it. Funds are now being set aside for the expenses of the Tenth World Methodist Conference in 1961.

The World Executive Committee will meet in Freudenstadt in Germany on July 30-August 4, 1958. In accordance with our action last year, it is recommended that we pay the expenses of our members who attend for the whole period up to $1000.00.

Respectively submitted
Elmer T. Clark, *Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mr. Edwin L. Jones, stated that his books for the last fiscal year, ending May 31, 1957, had been audited and a copy of the audit had been filed with the Commission on World Service and Finance.

RECEIPTS

Cash on Hand, May 31, 1956	$ 44,119.11
Council on World Service and Finance	39,999.96
Epworth Rectory Account	5,785.00
Savings Account for 1961 Conference	12,000.00
Special Donations, Interest, & Refunds	2,734.83
Total	$104,638.90

DISBURSEMENTS ON BUDGET

Office Personnel	$ 9,842.37
Office Supplies	2,686.19
Publications	5,963.20
Travel and Executive Committee	5,932.45

Archives Materials	1,683.75
Promotion and Cultivation	3,581.21
Contingencies	1,250.00
Expenses of 1956 Conference	12,000.00
Total	$ 42,939.17

NON-BUDGETED DISBURSEMENTS

Travel	$ 1,000.00
U.S. Bonds	9,995.00
World Methodist Conference, 1956	39,218.45
Epworth Rectory Account	5,934.69
Total	$ 56,148.14
TOTAL RECEIPTS	$104,638.90
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	99,087.31
Cash on Hand, May 31, 1957	$ 5,551.59

The Treasurer also presented a tentative report for the first five months of the current fiscal year. This showed expenditures on the budget of $19,108.48. This was an overexpenditure of $2,442.83, which was accounted for by the fact that $10,500.00 had been placed in the reserve fund for the 1961 World Methodist Conference, although only $2,500.00 had been budgeted for this item. The cash balance was $1,879.48, exclusive of reserve funds.

The current budget was adopted by vote, subject to minor adjustments which the Secretary and Treasurer were authorized to make.

The Wachovia Bank and Trust Company of Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Citizens Bank, also of Charlotte, were designated as depositories for current and savings accounts respectively.

On motion and vote it was agreed that the expenses of the members of the World Executive Committee representing Section XIII in attending the meeting of the Committee next summer would be paid up to $1,000.00 for those who attended for the whole period.

Epworth Old Rectory

There was a discussion concerning the status of the Epworth Old Rectory Fund. The Treasurer referred to the report of the Secretary and pointed out the fact that the British Committee had borrowed money for reconditioning and modernizing the Rectory, and that the interest was mounting rapidly. The Secretary stated that Mr. Charles C. Parlin had stated that he could no longer prosecute the appeal for funds effectively and had suggested that it be taken over by the Secretary's office. On motion of the Treasurer and by unanimous vote of the Committee, it was agreed to appropriate $5,000.00 to the Epworth Rectory Fund, to be paid out of surplus and accrued interest.

The Secretary and Treasurer were instructed to contact members and friends of the World Methodist Council in an endeavor to raise the balance needed.

Sectional Meeting

There was discussion of that section of the Secretary's report concerning a meeting of Section XIII. Edwin L. Jones moved that this be by Jurisdic-

tions, and if possible in connection with other meetings at which members of the Section would be present. Miss Dorothy McConnell and Oscar T. Olson spoke in favor of a national meeting of the whole group as well as meetings of smaller numbers by Jurisdictions. The matter was finally committed to the Secretary and Treasurer with instructions to arrange meetings at such times and places as might be found practicable.

Mrs. J. Fount Tillman reported that there would be a meeting of the American members of the World Federation of Methodist Women at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania, on January 6 and 7, 1958.

The Committee adjourned to the sanctuary of the church for a meeting with the Methodist ministers of Baltimore and vicinity with other friends and visitors. Dr. T. Otto Nall spoke to the congregation on the subject, "Methodists Have Their Shrines."

Following this meeting luncheon was served in the dining rooms of the church.

Afternoon Session

The Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council, Section XIII, reassembled at 1:30 P.M. at Lovely Lane Methodist Church, Baltimore.

Dr. Karl Quimby, American chairman of the Committee on Exchange of Preachers, made a lengthy report, pointing out that seven such exchanges had been arranged for 1958. Edwin L. Jones moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Quimby, with the request that his report, or as much thereof as practicable, be included in the minutes of this Committee.

Dr. Quimby stated that he would retire as one of the Secretaries of the Board of Missions in January, 1958 and that facilities would not then be available for the work of the Exchange Committee. He stated that he desired to continue to direct the work, however, and submitted a budget of around $6,000 per year as the cost thereof. He suggested that the Committee should appropriate all or much of that amount.

The Treasurer stated that such an item was not included in our budget, and no such appropriation could be made until additional funds were secured. It was pointed out that the Board of Missions had been subsidizing the work of the Exchange Committee indirectly and that a way might be found whereby the work might be continued in connection with another office of that Board or some other agency of the Church until increased financial support could be secured which would make possible the establishment of an adequate office for the exchange work. Elmer T. Clark, Mrs. J. Fount Tillman, and Miss Dorothy McConnell were instructed to confer with the proper persons about this, the final determination of the matter to be made by the Chairman, the Secretary, and the Treasurer of this Executive Committee.

The Committee adjourned to meet at 5:30 P.M. at the Sheraton Belvedere Hotel.

Upon adjournment members of the Committee and visitors were taken on a tour of Methodist historical spots in and around Baltimore as guests of the Baltimore Conference Historical Society. The tour was conducted by the Rev. Walter H. Stone and the Rev. Edwin Schell. Points visited included the historic Otterbein Church, the site of the original Lovely Lane Chapel where the Christmas Conference of 1784 was held, and the site of Cokesbury College.

Evening Session

The Executive Committee of Section XIII of the World Methodist Council, with certain visitors, met at a dinner in the Sheraton Belvedere Hotel at 5:30 P.M. Dr. Oscar T. Olson presided.

The Chairman restated the action taken at the afternoon session with reference to the Committee on Exchange of Preachers. He pointed out that if the conference with officers of the Board of Missions did not result in the continuation of the work by another Secretary of the Board, it might break down after the retirement of Dr. Quimby. He suggested that in this event an appropriation of $3,000 should be granted. The Secretary stated that the possibility existed but he was unwilling to make any appropriation in view of the statement of the Treasurer and the fact that he was not present at this session. The matter was referred to the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer for sympathetic consideration.

Oxford Theological Institute

Dr. Dow Kirkpatrick, American chairman of the Committee on the Oxford Theological Institute, referred to the report of the Secretary and read a statement published by the British Committee. He outlined a process for the selection of the thirty students allotted to the United States from seminary students, faculty members, alumni, and secretaries.

The nominations of additional members of the Oxford Theological Institute Committee were confirmed. These were Dean W. R. Cannon, Dean Merrimon Cunninggim, Dean Walter G. Muelder, Bishop Paul E. Martin, Bishop Gerald Ensley, Miss Dorothy McConnell, Dr. Gerald O. McCulloh, and Bishop Gerald Kennedy.

There was discussion concerning finances. The Secretary stated that he had asked the Treasurer to remit $280 to the British Committee as an advance payment on tuition fees for the thirty students. This represented a total of $1680.00, including the $280.00 above mentioned. This was confirmed by action of the Committee.

Dr. Kirkpatrick stated that $7,500 was needed to help defray travel expenses. The Secretary stated that this could not come from our budget. It was agreed that certain funds or foundations might be approached, provided that no appeal should be made to churches or individuals while the appeal for the Epworth Old Rectory was under way, and that there should be constant contact and cooperation with the Secretary and Treasurer.

Publications

T. Otto Nall made a report on conversations with the eidtor of *The Methodist Recorder* with reference to a periodical for the World Methodist Council. He stated that *The Methodist Recorder* was willing to set aside a section of the publication for World Methodism and that there would be no additional expense.

John D. Erb, editor of *Zion's Herald,* stated that his periodical might be transformed into an organ of World Methodism.

It was agreed that a periodical for the World Methodist Council was greatly needed, but that it is a matter which can be determined only by the World Executive Committee or the Council itself. The World Committee was requested to give consideration to the matter at its meeting in 1958.

The Secretary pointed out that the British Conference had authorized the preparation of a new History of British Methodism, work on which is already under way. He stated that no definitive work on the History of American Methodism had been produced in the last half century and that such a work should at once be projected. This recommendation was adopted by the Committee.

The Committee adjourned to attend a Charles Wesley Hymn Festival at Lovely Lane Church at 8 P.M.

OSCAR T. OLSEN, *Vice Chairman*
ELMER T. CLARK, *Secretary*

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ASSOCIATION OF METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

NOVEMBER 5, 1957

The Executive Committee of the Association of Methodist Historical Societies met pursuant to call in the Sheraton Belvedere Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland, at 9 A.M. on Tuesday, November 5, 1957. The members present were: Bishop Hazen G. Werner, Vice President, Elmer T. Clark, Executive Secretary, Mrs. Kenneth Stahl, Treasurer, T. Otto Nall, Oscar T. Olson, Jacob S. Payton, Albea Godbold, Frank B. Stanger, Lester A. Welliver, Frederick E. Maser, J. B. Cain, Lawrence Sherwood, Jr., and H. R. Carson.

Among visitors present were Edwin Schell, Erle Prior, O. B. Fanning, Mrs. Paul Sutton, E. Farley Sharp, John D. Erb, Dow Kirkpatrick, Karl Quimby, and Mrs. J. Fount Tillman.

The Vice President, Bishop Hazen G. Werner, presided.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary of the Association, Elmer T. Clark, presented his annual report, as follows:

The Association of Methodist Historical Societies has made much progress in establishing itself as one of the recognized agencies of the Church, as well as in developing and carrying forward a program of work. Our constitution has been adopted by the General Conference and is printed in the *Discipline*. We have a small appropriation from the Commission on World Service and Finance. Our relation to the World Methodist Council enables the Association to maintain headquarters with a small staff of workers. We are carrying out the major Methodist research project of our period. None of these things would have seemed possible two or three quadrenniums ago. May they be prophetic of still greater things to come!

Journal and Letters of Asbury

For more than six years we have concentrated on the annotated edition of the *Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury*. The initiative came from the Historical Publications Commission of the United States Government and the World Methodist Council, and the work was turned over to this association at Oxford, England, in 1951. With the cooperation of about twenty historians and numerous regional advisers the work has been carried out. It has involved an amazing amount of research, and we have now more information about Asbury than has ever before been known, including maps of all the states through which he travelled with his stopping places indicated.

This work, in three large volumes, is being printed in London and will be published jointly by the Epworth Press and the Abingdon Press, the first work to bear the imprint of both presses, and will be promoted in all countries. The whole is now in type, the volume of *Letters* is in final form, and we have read the more than 500 proof pages of the *Journal,* which includes the whole *Journal.* The completed work will be ready next summer.

Additions to the Library

The historical collection in the World Methodist Building at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, has attracted wide attention and thousands of visitors, including many groups, societies and committees.

The collection is steadily growing. Among the items which have been added this year may be mentioned the Hunter Portrait of John Wesley, painted from life in 1765 and favorably mentioned in Wesley's *Journal,* portraits of Charles Wesley, Susanna Wesley, and Dr. Thomas Coke by Frank O. Salisbury of London, the rare *Extract from the Journal of Francis Asbury* from August 7, 1771, to December 29, 1778, which was published by Asbury himself in 1792, and many other scarce publications.

We are securing typescripts of the various Methodist journals and other documents that are in the various depositories throughout the country. We have recently secured copies of the Journals of Thomas Rankin, William Colbert, and Joseph Pilmoor, and several others are in prospect. The other libraries have been most cooperative in this project.

Historical Works

Several new works in the field of Methodist history have recently been prepared or are in process of completion. Among these may be mentioned *Newark Conference Centennial History,* edited by Vernon B. Hampton; *Charles Wesley and His Colleagues,* by Bishop Charles W. Flint; *History of Georgia Methodism,* by Dr. A. M. Pierce; *History of Methodism in Alabama,* by Dr. M. E. Lazenby; *The Life of Jesse Walker,* by Dr. Almer Pennewell; *History of Methodism in North Carolina,* by Dr. B. G. Childs.

Other state and conference histories are in contemplation. This is of great importance and should be encouraged. In some areas no histories have ever been written and most of those in existence are old and out of date.

In Great Britain a new *History of Methodism* is being prepared under the editorship of Dr. Gordon E. Rupp of Cambridge. This should be supplemented by a *History of American Methodism.* There have been several well-written volumes in recent years, but there has been no comprehensive

work on the subject since those of Bangs, Stevens, and Hurst, the latest of which appeared more than half a century ago. This Association should make representations to the Council of Bishops and the Methodist Publishing House on the subject and should offer its cooperation in the production of a definitive history of Methodism in this country.

Methodist Shrines

The General Conference made a supplementary appropriation to this Association of $4250.00 per year, of which $2000.00 each was designated for St. George's Church in Philadelphia and John Street Church in New York, and we were instructed to use the balance in making a study of Methodist shrines and recommending a plan for providing such support as they might require. Your Secretary did not think the Association should be involved in financial matters of this kind and so expressed himself, but the General Conference committee had no definition of a shrine and did not feel that a general appropriation should be made to a local church. It therefore passed the funds through this Association.

The money has been paid to the two churches as received, but nothing has yet been done on the study and report for which we are responsible. It is, therefore recommended that a committee be appointed for this purpose and that it be instructed to make its report to the Executive Committee next year.

Future Work

Having completed the work on the *Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury*, the Association should undertake another project of comparable importance. There are several documents that should be published, although there is not in most cases a demand sufficient to make publication financially successful. The Ecumenical Methodist Council forty or fifty years ago recommended the preparation of an *Encyclopedia of Methodism*, and that recommendation has been repeated several times. It is recommended that serious consideration be given to this, and if an Encyclopedia does not seem practicable it is recommended that we undertake the production of a *Dictionary of Methodist Biography*.

Respectfully submitted
Elmer T. Clark, *Executive Secretary*

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Kenneth Stahl, Treasurer, stated that her books for the last fiscal year, ending May 31, 1957, had been audited and a copy of the audit had been filed with the Commission on World Service and Finance.

RECEIPTS

Cash on Hand, May 31, 1956	$ 6.338.46
Commission on World Service and Finance	20,000.00
Commission on World Service and Finance, Appropriation for Methodist Shrines	4,250.00
Refunds, dues, subscriptions, etc.	4,727.74

World Methodist Council appropriation for Asbury Journal work	2,500.00
Designated fund receipts	4,329.52
Total	$42,145.45

DISBURSEMENTS

Office Personnel	7,359.88
Office Supplies and Maintenance	2,995.26
Meetings and Travel	4,499.26
Editorial and Publication	10,433.80
Miscellaneous and Contingent	906.38
Methodist Shrines:	
John Street	2,000.00
St. George's	2,000.00
Designated Funds	5,653.25
Total	$35,847.83
CASH ON HAND, May 31, 1957	$ 6,297.62

The Secretary moved that the budget under which the Association has been operating during the five months of the present fiscal year be adopted, and this motion prevailed.

Historical Projects and Publications

The Executive Secretary made a report on the forthcoming Annotated Edition of the Journal and Letters of Bishop Francis Asbury, pointing out that the work was being manufactured in London and would be published jointly by the Abingdon Press and the Epworth Press. He stated that the composition had been completed and the proofs had been read. It was hoped that the work would appear by June or July of 1958.

The Executive Secretary stated that the work under way in England is to be a history of British Methodism, and that we should proceed as early as practicable to produce a history of American Methodism. This recommendation was approved. On motion of Frank B. Stanger, Bishop William C. Martin and Bishop Hazen G. Werner were asked to confer with the Council of Bishops on the subject.

Methodist Shrines

There was discussion concerning the designation of historical spots as Methodist shrines, and the report which the Association was instructed to make to the General Conference in 1960. On motion of H. R. Carson, a committee was appointed to study the whole matter, prepare a definition of a Methodist shrine, outline the report to the General Conference, and report to the next meeting of this Executive Committee. The committee consisted of Bishop Hazen G. Werner, chairman, the Executive Secretary, Lawrence Sherwood, Jacob S. Payton, T. Otto Nall, and Lester A. Welliver.

Epworth Old Rectory

The Secretary made a statement concerning the Epworth Old Rectory in England. On motion the Committee made an appropriation of $5,000.00 to the Rectory fund, to be paid from accrued interests and savings. It was

understood that this was in the nature of an advance, to be refunded in whole or part if possible, but with the realization that it might be an outright gift. The Secretary was asked to provide information on the cost of the restoration work and the progress of the fund.

Methodist Historical Materials

The Secretary was instructed to ask the Conference Historical Societies to compile a list of their manuscripts and other valuable possessions in the field of Methodistica.

The Secretary and Dr. Kenneth Rose were requested to make available to members of the Executive Committee the valedictory of Bishop Francis Asbury to Bishop William McKendree.

Greetings

The Executive Secretary was requested to send greetings to the Rev. Dr. William Warren Sweet for his long service to the cause of Methodist history, and also to Dr. William H. Best for his long activity in the Baltimore Conference Historical Society.

The Committee and visitors had lunch together at 12:30 P.M. in a private dining room of the hotel, at the conclusion of which the Committee adjourned.

In the afternoon the members of the Committee and visitors were taken on a tour of the Robert Strawbridge country and the graves of Bishops Asbury, George, Emory, and Waugh, and Robert Strawbridge, Jesse Lee, and other early Methodist leaders. The tour was arranged through the courtesy of the Baltimore Conference Historical Society and conducted by Edwin Schell and Walter H. Stone.

Hazen G. Werner, *Vice Chairman*
Elmer T. Clark, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

Ministerial Exchanges for 1957

1. The Rev. Walter R. MacArthur Twin Falls, Idaho	with The Rev. Charles Banks Birmingham, England
2. The Rev. William E. Trice Baton Rouge, Louisiana	The Rev. Max W. Woodward Harrow, Middlesex, England
3. The Rev. George S. Lackland Toledo, Ohio	The Rev. M. Wesley Earl Birmingham, England
4. The Rev. Richard E. Carlyon Scottsbluff, Nebraska	The Rev. Frederick E. Lines Huddersfield, England
5. The Rev. Gerald H. Jones Fort Wayne, Indiana	The Rev. R. Harvey Field Doncaster, England
6. The Rev. Henry B. Reiley, Jr. Williamsburg, Ohio	The Rev. Thomas Wilkinson Heswall, Cheshire, England
7. The Rev. Winfield S. Haycock Duluth, Minnesota	The Rev. Allan Fletcher Worthing, England
8. The Rev. W. Lynn Crowding Williamsport, Pennsylvania	The Rev. A. Reginald Hubbuck Stockport, England
9. The Rev. Lowell M. Atkinson Englewood, New Jersey	The Rev. Stanley Sudbury Durban, South Africa

Special Cases Handled in Summer of 1957

1. Dr. Enid Essame, Headmistress of Queenswood, Hatfield, Hertsfordshire, England
2. Dr. Richard C. Burnett, Editor of The Methodist Recorder, London, England.
3. Professor A. Lowry Creed, Headmaster of Truro School for Boys, Truro, Cornwall, England.
4. Richard Kendall, British Methodist business man.
5. Rev. and Mrs. W. Garfield Lickes of Lytham, England.
6. Dr. W. Kenneth Waights, Northampton, England.
7. Dr. A. Stanley Leyland, Barnet, Herts, England.
8. Rev. and Mrs. W. Allan Loy, Fiji.
9. Rev. Victor Hayes, Australia.
10. Rev. and Mrs. Herbert J. Williams, Carnegie, New South Wales, Australia.
11. Dr. Rupert J. Williams, past President-General of Australian Methodism.
12. Rev. W. Hartley Totty, Jamaica, West Indies.
13. Rev. Carlton Young, Jamaica, West Indies.
14. Rev. Norman Pratt, Nassau.

Regular Exchanges for Summer of 1958

1. The Rev. Roland Carter Springfield, Ohio	with	The Rev. Thomas J. Foinette Plymouth, England
2. The Rev. Mark Depp Winston-Salem, North Carolina		The Rev. Reginald Brighton Bowes Park, North London, England
3. The Rev. John B. Tate Augusta, Georgia		The Rev. W. Fletcher Fleet Muswell Hill, North London, England
4. The Rev. Laurence C. Nye Portland, Oregon		The Rev. Dennis F. Lansdown Birmingham, England
5. The Rev. Albert R. Ashley Columbus, Indiana		The Rev. Reginald J. Barrow Edinburgh, Scotland
6.		The Rev. Gerhard Schodde Lubek, Germany
7. The Rev. Robert J. Thomas Syracuse, New York		The Rev. George Good Belfast, Ireland

Special Cases for 1958

1. Professor Henry C. Kolbe, Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois.
2. The Rev. Orlie White, senior at Perkins School of Theology, Dallas, Texas.
3. The Rev. Reginald Davidson, Glebe, Australia.
4. Miss Rita Snowden, first woman Vice President of the New Zealand Methodist Conference.
5. Professor Frank Hambly, Adelaide, Australia.
6. Rev. William F. Ford, head of the Youth Program of New Zealand Methodism.

METHODISTS HAVE THEIR SHRINES

BY DR. T. OTTO NALL

An Address Delivered at Baltimore on November 4, 1957

Some religions abound in shrines, which the dictionary defines as places or objects hallowed by history or associations. Cholula, a small city in Mexico, is said to have so many that you could worship at a different shrine each day in the year without repeating yourself.

Even in the United States, where shrines are few and far between, there are some spots made sacred by the memories of religious groups. Christian Science has its high-domed Mother Church in Boston. Mormonism has its gothic temple surmounted by the gilded figure of trumpet-blowing Moroni, as well as its impressive "This is the Place" monument. Moravianism has its sister-house and graveyard at Bethlehem, and the other buildings associated with Peter Boehler, of sainted memory. And there are other shrines, but building shrines has not been a Methodist trait. To our loss, undoubtedly, we have been too busy making history to write it.

Belatedly now, we are coming to appreciate the importance of landmarks in our search for God. To Old Saint George's in Philadelphia, oldest original Methodist building in continuous service in America, and old John Street Church in New York City, home of the oldest congregation, we have been adding hundreds of shrines. The names of many circuit-riders, those restless and resistless horsemen of the Lord, are gone, but some have been associated with places and even articles of furniture that tell much of the day when, as Historian W. W. Street put it, "no single force had more to do with bringing order out of frontier chaos." Old records are coming out of attics and basements. Old diaries are finding the light of day, and old histories are awakening new interest in little-known events. Too few record books of churches are being discovered, but there are some.

A few years ago, I visited the almost-Methodist island of Ocracoke, off the coast of North Carolina. For a time there were three Methodist churches, and no others, on this sandy strip of land that was associated with ship wrecks and pirate adventures. The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and for a time the Methodist Protestant Church were all represented. But for a considerable, and most interesting, part of the history there were no church records at all. I looked at the books and found great gaps. The historian must depend on the memories of sea captains who, in their declining years, are likely to wander to less ecclesiastical matters.

Even churches that are not so much exposed to the perils of the sea are lacking in records. Frequently, our paper is asked to print a notice announcing the anniversary of some church and pleading for photographs, books and any scraps of information. Brethren, these things ought not to be. So, as we fill out the details in the record and supplement the all-too-scant facts, I am tempted to make a suggestion or two.

First of all, it is perilous, and often useless, to call this or that the first. Those of us who attempt to publish papers have found this true, to our chagrin and sometimes more severe discomfort. For example, the first Methodist church in Florida was probably Black Creek church, organized about 1800, some 26 miles southwest of Jacksonville. On the other side of the continent there is First Methodist Church, Los Angeles, Calif., organized as Fort Street Church in 1876, with Bishop William L. Harris preaching the first sermon. And midway between is Harry's Chapel, oldest Protestant church south of the Arkansas River, organized in 1816 at Washington, Ark.

Many other firsts might be cited: the church at Stratford, Conn., which was the first Methodist chapel built in New England, in 1790; the church at Victoria, where the first Swedish Methodist church in America was organized by Jonas Hedstrom in 1846; and the chapel at Cane Ridge, Ky., where the Cane Ridge revival was held in 1808 and the idea of the camp-meeting was first developed. Frequently, however, there are conflicts and rival claims. For example, Galena and Plainfield, in Illinois, both insist that they are the first Methodist churches organized in Northern Illinois.

As I see it, we would do well to make "firstness" a secondary consideration. The historic, if dismally unmethodistic, quarrel between Old Saint George's and Old John Street was almost pathetic, as it raged furiously and ranged partisans on the two sides of the playing field. The importance of these shrines does not lie in the fact that each antedates the other in one particular or another, but in the contribution that each made to the religious character of a growing nation. In an introduction to Francis Tees' book on "Methodist Origins," Bishop Fred P. Corson says: "The history of a great social and industrial movement in the Old World and the founding of a republic in the New World are inseparably interwoven with the beginnings of the Methodist movement."

It might help us if we related people to places. We ought to think of Old Saint George's because of its association with Boardman and Pilmoor, and Old John Street because it arose out of Philip Embury's experience and re-consecration.

At East Readfield, Me., there is a meeting-house build by Methodists in 1794 and dedicated by the faithful Jesse Lee who, you may remember, could not attend the Christmas Conference because he was in poor health, 500 miles from the Conference, and had only 12 days' notice. Not far away is Fogg House, so named because Francis Asbury and Lee were entertained there by Caleb Fogg in 1798.

These two are fairly well known. Not so famous is Amariah Sutton, who gave an acre and a half each of his land in the present Williamsport, Pa., for a church and cemetery. His cabin became the first preaching place in Northumberland circuit. And Calvary Church now stands on the site. And I shall not soon forget a visit to Clarence, N, Y., where

Glezen Fillmore was a pastor as colorful as his name back in 1813. He built First Church, Buffalo.

All of our Methodist greats are not clergymen. In Sious City, Ia., the diligent searcher finds the Sergeant Charles Floyd monument, honoring the Methodist among the 42 men who accompanied Lewis and Clark on the famed expedition sent out by President Andrew Jackson to explore the new Louisiana territory. The sergeant died at this spot in northwestern Iowa.

Shrines are connected with persons; they are also associated closely with events. There is Barrat's Chapel, where Coke and Asbury met for the first time in 1784, and afterwards, probably in a neighboring farmhouse, planned the Christmas Conference. According to the records, Communion was first celebrated under Methodist auspices in this place.

Unfortunately, the place associated with an historic event does not always survive the ravages of change. Only a bronze plaque is attached to the Merchant's Club in Baltimore, to mark the site of Lovely Lane meetinghouse. (It is strangely like the situation in London, where a plaque on Barclay's Bank recalls the location of the Aldersgate house where John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed.) Fortunately, much of the Methodistica related to the Christmas Conference has been moved to First Church, Baltimore, which has been appropriately renamed Lovely Lane Methodist Church, since it is a lineal descendant.

(Incidentally, I understand that some steps have been taken to mark the Municipal Auditorium at Kansas City, Mo., where Methodists were re-united in 1939. I hope that this will be done. These days, when there are some signs of rifts here and there, might be an appropriate time for dedication of a memorial plaque.)

We need to remind ourselves that often a historical shrine is misplaced, or even mutiliated. When the restored Epworth Rectory was dedicated last summer, Britain's E. Benson Perkins declared that the only remaining part of the original building (that is, the structure before the famed fire) is probably the old fire-place and chimney-stack. Of course, the best of materials were used in the restoration. The Anglican rector who accomplished most of it obtained beams of seasoned English oak which had been hewn in a shipwright's yard. The brickwork consists of the warm, red, handmade bricks which were fashioned in the early days of Queen Anne.

Even more important than the careful—and Prayful, I might add—restoration of a shrine is its careful association with its history. A shrine is more than a museum, although I fear that sometimes the distinction is not quite clear. It needs to be related in a vital way with Methodist history. It must have its proper and meaningful setting.

For instance, Methodism in California is related to the Gold Rush, and to the settlement by Easterners who came around the cape as well as overland. At Sutter's Fort, goal of the covered wagons, William Grove Deal, in 1849, founded a Methodist church, which was the pion-

neer religious organization in the neighborhood of Sacramento. First Methodist Church in San Francisco came two years earlier, and was the first Protestant organization in California. However, the oldest continuing Protestant organization in the state was the Methodist church at Santa Clara-San Josè, which was influential in the pre-Gold Rush days. A Methodist church in Coloma was organized in 1849, one year after the discovery of gold. The building was erected in 1856 and is still in use. The Methodist church at Sonoma is the oldest Protestant building in the state now used for services.

Methodist beginnings and developments in the state are thus a part of a continuing story. To split the account into paragraphs, as is done when a particular church observes its anniversary and concerns itself only with its own part in the unfolding drama, is to destroy the story. Anniversaries ought to relate the local church to the regional church and the worldwide church. The focus can be on one church and congregation, but the background can be filled in to give meaning to the center of the picture.

Often it is true, of course, that Methodist persons and places, separated by many miles, are drawn together by various associations. Once Methodists forebears roamed the continent, and some of them went even farther. It is said that John Dempster, for example, had a part in establishing three theological schools in widely separated parts of the country. He was a pioneer missionary and educator. Out of his conception of the world parish came the schools of theology at Boston, Garrett and Iliff.

Thus, the inter-relatedness of Methodist accomplishments is indicated, and it ought to be plain in any histories we write about our shrines. Furthermore, I am sure that we ought to trace some trends through history.

We have usually tried to minimize our divisions. That is the fashion among church planners and even church historians in these days. So, we have not noted that the church of the Disciples of Christ grew out of the Methodist revival at Cane Ridge. We have played down the facts involved in the formation of the Methodist Protestant Church, which has contributed so much to our development, actually preserving some of the emphases of original Methodism that other Methodists forgot. We have been most timid about the history of division between the North and the South, although I note that a student at the University of Chicago wrote a thesis for a doctor's degree in philosophy on this subject: "The Attitude of the Northern Clergy toward the South in 1860-65." And at this juncture in our Methodist history it may be time for some more studies on attitudes, north and south.

We ought never to be afraid of the facts of our history. The differences belong to the past, just as the controversies that sometimes embitter us in these days will soon be seen in the perspective of the decades and the centuries. The follies of the past soon show up for what they are, for time has a way of applying a kind of litmus-paper

test to all things. Therefore, let us not hesitate to delve below the surface and learn from the trends in our church life.

Our concern for education (and I have been fascinated by reading again the story of Cokesbury College) emerges in a new determination to keep education close to religion. In a very real sense, all education that is more than mere technical training is religious; and whatever Russia does about schooling its young people we had better remember that fact of life.

Our tradtional interest in evangelism has been revived after a long, long period of neglect. We forgot the warm-hearted heritage that is ours. Revivalism may have had its excesses, but there was no earthly (not to mention heavenly!) sense in doing what we did. What we should have done all of us know: change the evangelistic methods of the frontier into the evangelistic means of a day when the frontiers of geography have been succeeded by the frontiers of the spirit. And we could have done this without losing the evangelistic purpose that is at the very heart of our faith.

The outcome of the present humanitarian concern of Methodism and our interest in economic justice (diminished, I am afraid, from its height in the thirties and early forties) is hidden by the future, but today's achievements are built solidly on the past.

The liturgical movement in the Methodist Church, a movement that has profoundly affected the architecture of our churches, may have run its course. I believe that it has tended to make worship more meaningful as well as more beautiful. I hope, as I think you do, that it will lead to a better understanding of the Church—one, holy, apostolic and universal. We American Methodists have come far short at that point.

The present trend in emphasizing laymen and laywomen is one in which we have much to contribute. Interestingly enough, our Roman Catholic friends, who have so little in their history to prompt them, have given much attention to this movement. They have Catholic Action, a movement to put lay people to work in the local churches, and the Lay Apostolate, which enlists laymen to win non-Catholics. They are even developing a lay theology, with Cougar, in France, the latest theologian to make the attempt. And here we Protestants, with our beliefs in the priesthood of all believers already have what is essentially a lay theology.

Methodists are enthusiastic about the ecumenical movement, and that suggests something else we can learn from our history. We are a world church, and not, as our American attitudes and organization suggests, an American church with worldwide appendages. At our General Conference, for example, overseas delegates have been considerably embarrassed by the fact that they are expected to vote on many matters concerning which they have no opinions—like ROTC in the colleges and the status of the Methodist Federation for Social Action—and in which they have little interest.

Suppose that we knew Methodist history on a world scale. Suppose we included some facts like these:

To a colony of freed slaves in Sierra Leone on Africa's west coast, Coke and Wesley sent two preachers in 1795, for the colony included Methodists from Nova Scotia. But the mission failed. For a century there were mishaps and young missionaries died on the field. But now there are more than 20,000 Methodists in Sierra Leone.

In 1815, Rev. Samuel Leigh was hustled from London to Sydney, Australia, where the early settlers were pleading for a chaplain. In 1817 a slab church was built and the first Methodist service south of the Equator was held. Nearly 20 years later, in the island kingdom of Tonga, a powerful native leader, King George, became converted and began preaching to his people. Today Tonga is more than 90 per cent Methodist, and when the Queen of England visited on her round-the-world tour she changed the date of her arrival from Sunday to Saturday, so that she would not interfere with the general church going.

Some of the immigrants who came to the United States from Europe were destined to return. One was L. S. Jacoby. Following Christopher Muller, who had gone to southern Germany 20 years earlier, Jacoby preached the first Methodist sermon at Bremen about 1850. Now there are five annual conferences in Germany and the most thriving are in East Germany. Martin Neimoeller is authority for the statement that the hope for Protestantism in Germany lies not with the old established churches like the one to which he belongs, but with aggressive, young free churches like Methodism.

Paying attention to the trends and tendencies in worldwide Methodism would broaden our interests. It would show us that Methodism's greatest contribution to the ecumenical movement is to be made in terms of our own unique discoveries about doctrine and organization. We are the best exponents of universal Christianity when we are the best Methodists. And we could solve some of our most difficult problems—segregation-integration for instance—if we put them in a world-wide rather than a sectional setting.

We are in the midst of rediscovering our history. The growing number of centennials and sesquitennials and approaching bicentennials give us a glorious opportunity. Each church, it seems to me, ought to delegate one member, or a committee of members, to spend time and money digging into the past. Every day important records and mementoes are slipping out of our hands. We cannot afford to lose them, and we shall not, if some responsible persons are given the task of mining for these treasures. Furthermore, it would be hard to think of a better plan for developing interest in the Conference and Jurisdictional societies.

Arnold Toynbee is only the most prominent of present-day historians who insist that the basic cause of mankind's sickness is spiritual. He has lamented the lack of faith in the future because of lack of faith in the past, and fundamental to both lack of faith in God. We today do

not see God as the Eternal Spirit in the dim beginning hovering over chaos. Yet there He was and here He is, in Arthur W. Munk's happy phrase, sitting "at the loom of time, weaving His great design, carefully eliminating the error and evil due to human sin or the curse of necessity, and thus the pattern grows in meaning, significance and beauty as the ages roll."

God's purpose is to be seen in the majestic movements of history, in the sacrifices and sufferings, the disappointments and triumphs of human-kind. It is to be seen in the lives of individual men and women. It is to be glimpsed in the life of churches, as we observe the stately goings of our God in the institutions where God and man most often meet.

Therefore, let us have more and better attention to our Methodist shrines, remembering that a shrine is not primarily a burial-place of yesterday, but a trysting-place for tomorrow.

It is a great privilege to be in this historic place, dating back to the very beginnings of Baltimore Methodism. If I read my history right, this congregation first worshipped in the Charles Street edifice and came to this location only on the insistent urging of John F. Goucher, then its pastor. Despite much opposition against "moving to the country," as many members put it, he led the people into a new venture and new enterprise. They called it "Goucher's Folly," but many lived to change that harsh judgment. This building, designed by the famed architect, Stanford White, has a tower modelled after the campanile of Santa Marie, Ravenna, Italy. It is generally considered to be the purest form of ecclesiastical Etruscan architecture in the country.

CONFERENCE OF WORLD CONFESSIONAL BODIES

At Geneva, in Switzerland, there was held on November 14 and 15, 1957, a meeting of the representatives of the various World Confessional Organizations, in a conference of which it has been said that an "important world Church chapter has been written."

Those present were Dr. Arnold T. Ohrn of the Baptist World Alliance; Mr. Herbert M. Hadley of the Friends World Committee on Consultation; the Rev. R. F. G. Calder of the Internationl Congregational Council; Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist of the Luthern World Federation; Dr. Marcel Pradervand and Dr. Lewis S. Mudge of the World Presbyterian Alliance; the Lord Bishop of Willesden as the representative of the Angelican Church; Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft and Dr. Hans Heinrich Harms of the World Council of Churches; Dr. E. Benson Perkins, Mr. Edwin L. Jones, Bishop Ferdinand Sigg, and Dr. Elmer T Clark of the World Methodist Council. Others were present from the Presbyterian and Lutheran bodies. The only important group not represented was the World Convention of Churches of Christ (Disciples), Dr. Jesse M. Bader, the Secretary, having been prevented from attending by other engagements.

The meeting was held in the board room of the World Council of Churches at 17 Route de Malagnou. Dr. Lund-Quist served as chairman and Dr. Pradervand as secretary. It was emphasized in opening statements that no new organization was to be effected and that the meeting was for purposes of personal contacts and mutual consultation only.

The agenda carried six items: Reports on structures and functions, future policies and programs, contributions to ecumenical life, relationship to the World Council of Churches, relationship to schemes of union, and future contacts between the confessional groups.

The reports of the secretaries concerning the nature and work of the various confessional councils brought out some interesting facts. They showed, for example, that the Methodists are the only group that is wholly united, both in the World Methodist Council and in the World Council of Churches. All others have denominations that hold aloof, some from the World Council of Churches and some even from their own confessional organization. The only churches calling themselves Methodists that are not included in the World Methodist Council are the several irregular "splinter sects" in the United States which are too small to constitute a Section.

The reports also showed that the Methodist organization, which probably represents the largest constituency, excluding the population claims of state-related churches, has the smallest staff and the lowest budget of any comparable body. The Lutheran World Federation, for example, has a staff of 35 persons in addition to office workers, and an annual budget of $190,000, plus large sums for its relief work and western hemisphere headquarters. It publishes a quarterly magazine in both German and English. The Baptist World Alliance has a staff of ten persons in Washington, two in London, and is planning to open another office in Asia. Its budget is $82,000 for 1958 and $90,000 for 1959. These bodies dwarf the World Methodist Council in organization and finances.

The Geneva Conference has dissipated any fears that the confessional councils might work adversely to the larger ecumenicity as represented by the World Council of Churches. The hearty participation of Dr. Visser 't Hooft, both in the preparations and discussions, showed that he at least had no such misgivings. The group faced this matter with frankness and weighed the advantages as well as the possible dangers involved. All the groups represented were supporters of the World Council of Churches.

"It is to be expected," wrote Dr. E. Benson Perkins in *The Methodist Recorder*, "that the World Confessions will in the future be more closely related to the World Council and interpret all their work as within the larger whole. This has been so to some extent in the past but now it should be more specifically expressed. It may also be expected that the World Confessions will, as such, take a larger and more helpful place in the counsels and activities of the World Council

of Churches. This at least was suggested by the mutual exchange of thought at this Conference."

Just as the Conference was careful to set up no organizations, so it avoided taking any formal actions or adopting resolutions. It agreed to exchange printed materials and to have another informal meeting in connection with the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Denmark next summer.

Out of the Geneva meeting has come a new appreciation of the place and significance of the confessional bodies in the total ecumenical picture. Contacts were made, acquaintances were formed, a new atmosphere of essential unity and cooperation was created, and the groups came to understand each other as never before. The great value of the occasion is found in these "intangibles" rather than in more concrete achievements.

BRITISH SECTIONAL MEETING

Section X of the World Methodist Council, representing the British Methodist Church, met at the Mission House, Marylebone Road, London, on Wednesday, November 20, 1957. The Secretary and the Treasurer from the United States and Dr. Alan Walker from Australia sat with the group as visitors.

There were reports from the Secretary and Treasurer in England, the committees on Evangelism, Exchange of Preachers, Education, and European Relationship. Dr. E. Benson Perkins reviewed the actions of the World Executive Committee and the meeting of the World Confessional Organizations at Geneva. He also made a statement concerning the reconditioning and modernization of the Epworth Old Rectory and the status of the Francis Asbury House at West Bromwich.

Rupert E. Davies, for the Committee on Christian Education, presented a report concerning the World Methodist Conference on Christian Education which had been held at Kingswood School, Bath, on September 28 and 29, 1957. This had been attended by fourteen Methodist educators, including Dr. John O. Gross from the Board of Education of The Methodist Church, U.S.A. There was also a report on the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Charles Wesley.

An interesting suggestion concerned the possible formation of a World Fellowship of Amateur Radio operators. It was pointed out that there were thousands of these "Hams" in Great Britain, and that there were undoubtedly numerous Methodists among them. The same being true in other countries, it seemed possible to perfect an organization among them under the auspices of the World Methodist Council.

Preceding the Sectional meeting there were two meetings of the British members of the Program Committee for the 1961 World Methodist Conference. Mr. Edwin L. Jones and Dr. Elmer T. Clark of the United States were present.

The place of meeting in 1961 was discussed. A theme and program outline were prepared as tentative proposals. Since these sessions did not represent the full committee no definite actions could be taken, but it was agreed that the suggestions should be sent to the other members and presented to the World Executive Committee next summer.

DANISH CENTENNIAL

The centennial of Methodism in Denmark will be celebrated on August 7-10, 1958, according to an announcement by Bishop Odd Hagen. The observance will be in the Jerusalem Church at Copenhagen. It is expected that members of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council will attend the services. The Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church, U.S.A., will send a representative.

EVANGELISTIC COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

The World Executive Committee at London in July, 1957, accepted a report from the Committee on Evangelism which provided, among other things, for "communication of ideas, plans and materials by regular periodicals, or quarterly publication or letter." At the meeting of the British Committee in November, 1957, Dr. W. E. Sangster, co-chairman of evangelism, reported that the committee had not been able to develop an adequate medium of communication. It was stated that WORLD PARISH might be used for that purpose.

In January, 1958, there was a conference at Philadelphia, U.S.A., between the Secretary in the United States, the American co-chairman of evangelism, Dr. Harry Denman, and the editor of *The Upper Room*, Dr. J. Manning Potts, on the subject. It was agreed that WORLD PARISH would establish a section or department on Evangelism as a regular feature of the publication, which would if necessary be enlarged for the purpose. The materials would be gathered by the Committee on Evangelism from all over the world and would be edited by a person named by the committee in the United States. The American Section of the committee would finance any necessary enlargement of the publication. This plan is expected to begin functioning in the next quarterly issue of WORLD PARISH.

EPWORTH RECTORY FUND

On other pages of this bulletin will be found renewed references to the funds needed to complete the payments for the reconditioning and modernization of the Epworth Old Rectory. This ancient home of the Wesleys is now the property of the World Methodist Council and a shrine of the world Church.

This fund is still in arrears on the American side; about $20,000 is still needed. Your liberal help is earnestly solicited. Please send your contribution to Mr. Edwin L. Jones, Treasurer, P.O. Box 966, Charlotte 1, N. C.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

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